

IN THE CLAIMS:

Cancel claims 1-18.

Add the following new claims:

--19. (new) Intraocular lens, said intraocular lens being comprised of a flexible material, said lens having at least one relatively rigid portion, said flexible material of said at least one relatively rigid portion having a structural modification to impart relative rigidity.

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--20. (new) Intraocular lens according to claim 19, wherein the structurally modified flexible material defining the at least one relatively rigid portion is chemically structurally modified flexible material.

--21. (new) Intraocular lens according to claim 19, wherein the structurally modified flexible material is a polymerized material.

--22. (new) Intraocular lens according to claim 19, wherein the structurally modified flexible material is hydrophilic.

--23. (new) Intraocular lens according to claim 19, wherein the flexible material is selected from the group

consisting of crosslinked polymer and copolymer materials.

--24. (new) Intraocular lens according to claim 23, wherein the copolymer materials are random methyl-methacrylate-hydroxymethyl-methacrylate (MMA-HMA) copolymers crosslinked by a functional agent.

--25. (new) Intraocular lens according to claim 23, wherein the polymer functional agent is diethylene glycol dimethacrylate.

91 --26. (new) Intraocular lens according to claim 23, wherein the polymer materials are polydimethylsiloxanes.

--27. (new) Intraocular lens according to claim 19, wherein said intraocular lens comprises an optic part and a haptic part, said optic part being comprised of said flexible material and said haptic part including said at least one relatively rigid portion.

--28. (new) Intraocular lens according to claim 19, wherein said intraocular lens comprises an optic part and a haptic part, said optic part comprising one or more

portions of the flexible material and one or more portions of the structurally modified flexible material.

--29. (new) Intraocular lens according to claim 19, wherein said intraocular lens comprises an optic part and a haptic part, said optic part comprising one or more strips of the flexible material alternating with one or more strips of the structurally modified flexible material.

91 --30. (new) Intraocular lens according to claim 19, wherein said intraocular lens comprises an optic part and a haptic part, said optic part including one or more zones adjoining the haptic part and in continuity with one or more zones of the structurally modified flexible material of the haptic part.

--31. (new) Intraocular lens according to claim 19, wherein said intraocular lens comprises an optic part and a haptic part, said optic part being primarily made of the flexible material and the haptic part being primarily made of the structurally modified flexible material.

--32. (new) Intraocular lens according to claim 30, wherein the haptic part comprises appendices.

--33. (new) Intraocular lens according to claim 19, wherein the structurally modified flexible material is a random methyl-methacrylate-hydroxymethyl-methacrylate (MMA-HMA) copolymer modified with at least one reactive compound.

--34. (new) Intraocular according to claim 33, wherein said reactive compound is a monofunctional agent.

91 Sub C2) --35. (new) Intraocular lens according to claim 33, wherein the monofunctional agent is selected in the group consisting of functional styrene, acrylic and methacrylic acids and their derivatives, allyl halides, carboxylic compounds and their derivatives, isocyanates, alkyl halides, epoxides, functional styrene derivatives, acryloyl methacryloyl halides, and allyl halides

--36. (new) Intraocular lens according to claim 33, wherein the reactive compound is a polyfunctional agent serving as a coupling agent between the polymer chains of the MMA-HMA.

--37. (new) Intraocular lens according to claim 36, wherein the polyfunctional agent is selected in the group

consisting of divinyl sulfone and its derivatives, polyfunctional carboxylic compounds and their derivatives, polyfunctional alkyl halides, di- and tri-isocyanates, polyfunctional epoxides, methacrylic acid, acrylic acid and alkylacryloyl.

91 --38. (new) Intraocular lens according to claim 37, wherein the reactive compound is a polyfunctional agent, one or more functions of said polyfunctional agent being antagonistic to the functions of MMA-HMA and are capable of reacting with them, the other function or functions of said polyfunctional agent being polymerizable allowing postpolymerization so as to increase crosslinking density and enhance relative rigidity.

--39. (new) Intraocular lens according to claim 38, wherein said polyfunctional agent is selected in the group consisting of functional styrene monomer, acryloyl halides, methacryloyl halides, and allyl halides.

--40 . (new) Intraocular lens according to claim 33, wherein the reactive compound is a monomer which impregnates the MMA-HMA copolymer and penetrates the network of said copolymer to form polymerized interpenetrating networks.

--41. (new) Intraocular lens according to claim 40, wherein said monomer is selected in the group consisting of mono- or polyfunctional acrylic and alkylacrylic monomers, and heterocyclic monomers.

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--42. (new) Intraocular lens according to claim 33, wherein the reactive compound is a polyfunctional agent, one or more functions of said polyfunctional agent being antagonistic to the functions of the HMA and capable of reacting with them, the other function or functions being copolymerizable with a mixture of monomers and/or a polymer blend.

--43. (new) Intraocular lens according to claim 42, wherein said polyfunctional agent is selected in the group consisting of methacrylic acid, acrylic acid, and an alkylacryloyl halide.

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--44. (new) A process for making an intraocular lens comprising the steps of:

- preparing a pre-form for an intraocular lens from a piece of flexible material; and

- shaping the pre-form into an intraocular lens, and selectively structurally modifying the flexible material

of the pre-form to define at least one relatively rigid portion.

--45. (new) A process according to claim 44, wherein the step of selectively structurally modifying the flexible material includes impregnating at least one portion of the pre-form to be rigidified with a reactive compound

al --46. (new) A process according to claim 45, wherein the pre-form is made of polymeric or copolymeric material, the step of selectively structurally modifying the flexible material comprising chemically reacting the polymeric or copolymeric material with an organic compound.

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--47. (new) A process according to claim 45, wherein the step of selectively structurally modifying the flexible material comprises polymerization after the chemical reaction of polymeric or copolymeric material.

--48. (new) A process according to claim 44, wherein the step of shaping the pre-form into an intraocular lens precedes the step of selectively structurally modifying the flexible material.

--49. (new) A process according to claim 45, wherein prior to impregnating at least a portion of the pre-form, a portion or portions of the pre-form not to be impregnated are protected against impregnation.

--50. (new) A process according to claim 49, wherein the portion or portions of the pre-form not to be impregnated are protected by a coating or film.

--51. (new) A process according to claim 50, wherein the coating or film is removed following impregnation.

91 --52. (new) A process according to claim 44, wherein the step of shaping the pre-form into an intraocular lens follows the step of selectively structurally modifying the flexible material.

--53. (new) A process according to claim 44, wherein the structurally modified flexible material is a modified random methyl- methacrylate-hydroxymethyl-methacrylate (MMA-HMA) copolymer, said copolymer being modified with at least one reactive compound.

--54. (new) A process according to claim 44, wherein the flexible material is selected from the group consisting of crosslinked polymer and copolymer materials.

--55. (new) A process according to claim 44, wherein the copolymer material is random methyl-methacrylate-hydroxymethyl-methacrylate (MMA-HMA) copolymer crosslinked by a functional agent.

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~~--56. (new) A process according to claim 44, wherein the step of selectively structurally modifying the flexible material comprises chemically reacting a monofunctional or polyfunctional with a reactive element of the flexible material.~~

--57. (new) A process according to claim 44, wherein the step of selectively structurally modifying the flexible material comprises polymerization of one or more monomers within said flexible material.

--58. (new) A process according to claim 44, wherein the step of selectively structurally modifying the flexible material comprises polymerization of one or more monomers outside the flexible material.

--59. (new) A process according to claim 56, wherein the flexible material is made of polymeric or copolymeric material and the polyfunctional reactive compound is a coupling agent between the polymer chains of said polymeric or copolymeric material.

--60. (new) A process according to claim 44, wherein the pre-form is made of polymeric or copolymeric material, the step of selectively structurally modifying the flexible material comprising:

al - impregnating the flexible material with monomers to penetrate the network formed by flexible material; and

- polymerizing the monomers to form interpenetrated networks.

--61. (new) A process according to claim 44, wherein the pre-form is made of polymeric or copolymeric materials, the step of selectively structurally modifying the flexible material comprising:

- reacting one or more reactive functions of the polyfunctional reactive compound with the reactive functions of said polymeric or copolymeric material; and

- copolymerizing the other reactive functions of the polyfunctional reactive compound with a mixture of monomers and/or polymer blend.

--62. (new) A process according to claim 55, wherein said functional agent is a monofunctional agent selected from the group consisting of functional styrene derivatives, acrylic and methacrylic acids and their derivatives, allyl halides, carboxylic compounds and their derivatives, isocyanates, alkyl halides and epoxides.

91 --63. (new) A process according to claim 55, wherein the functional agent is a polyfunctional agent serving as a coupling agent between polymer chains of the MMA-HMA, the polyfunctional agent being selected from the group consisting of divinyl sulfone and its derivatives, polyfunctional carboxylic compounds and their derivatives, polyfunctional alkyl halides, di- and tri-isocyanates, and polyfunctional epoxides.

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